## LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

11. (New) A film deposition method using a film deposition system including a processing vessel capable of being evacuated to make a vacuum therein, a stage placed in the processing vessel and capable of supporting an object to be processed thereon, and a guide ring placed on or above the stage so as to surround an outer circumference of the object to be processed when mounted on the stage, the guide ring being capable of guiding the object to be processed onto the stage during mounting of the object to be processed onto the stage, wherein a particle generation preventing space is formed between an inner peripheral part of a lower surface of the guide ring and an upper surface of the stage, the method comprising:

mounting an object to be processed onto the stage;

conducting a film deposition process on the object to be processed, whereupon unnecessary films deposited on wall surfaces defining the particle generation preventing space form peak portions during the conducting of the film deposition process;

removing the object to be processed from on the stage; and

cleaning the film deposition system to remove the unnecessary films and the peak portions thereof.

12. (New) A film deposition method according to claim 11, wherein

the cleaning of the film deposition system is conducted after a predetermined number of objects to be processed have been processed.

13. (New) A film deposition method according to claim 11, wherein

the unnecessary films peel off the wall surfaces and accumulate in the particle generation preventing space thereby not to disperse as particles into the processing vessel, before the cleaning.

14. (New) A film deposition method according to claim 11, wherein

the particle generation preventing space has a height of about 0.2 mm or more.

15. (New) A film deposition method according to claim 11, wherein

the particle generation preventing space has a radial dimension of about 2 mm or more.

16. (New) A film deposition method according to claim 11, wherein

the particle generation preventing space has a height and a radial dimension, and a ratio of the radial dimension to the height is 10 or more.